

POPULATION

INTRODUCTION

Use of Population Data in Vital Event Surveillance

Simple counts of information collected on vital certificates are helpful in planning provision of health services, because they document the number of people who experience health events in a particular geographic area.

When questions concerning *comparisons* between groups arise, however, simple counts often are misleading, because they do not account for differences in the composition of the groups. For example, more people die in towns where the majority of the inhabitants are elderly than in towns with a majority of young adults, simply because older people die more often than younger people do. Does this mean, however, that the town with the older population has an abnormally high occurrence of death? To answer questions concerning the magnitude of a vital event and to enhance our ability to compare groups with each other, statisticians calculate rates.

Rates provide a way to compare the number of events that occurred with the number of people in the group for which that event could have occurred. They are calculated by dividing the number of events by the number of people in the group, then multiplying the quotient by some number (such as 1,000 or 100,000) to standardize the calculation so it easily can be compared with rates for other groups. In many instances, census population data are used to estimate of the number of people in the group for which the event could have occurred.

Louisiana population figures provide a frame of reference for examining the vital events that occur within the resident population within a particular year. State population figures are used to calculate the overall rates at which births and deaths occur throughout the state.

Source of Data: Population Estimates

Intercensal population estimates provided by the United States Bureau of the Census were used to calculate rates in the state summary portion of this report. Intercensal population estimates provided by the Research Division, College of Administration and Business of the Louisiana Tech University were used to calculate rates presented in the Parish and Region tables.

For the years that fall between the ten-year census counts, the U.S. Census Bureau and Louisiana Tech University calculate population estimates based on average changes to the population within each year. These changes are based on determinations of the number of births, deaths, and migrations into and out of the state on an annual basis.

POPULATION ESTIMATES

- Population estimates for 1996 place the number of Louisiana residents at 4,350,759.
- Between 1945 and the mid 1980s, the total population in Louisiana saw a steady increase. In the late 1980s, the state experienced a net population loss, primarily because of migration out of the state. Since that time, population levels have risen to their early 1980s level. Historical estimates of the total Louisiana population are shown in Table P1.

Table P1. Population Counts Louisiana, 1945-1996					
Year	Population	Year	Population	Year	Population
1945	2,429,000	1963	3,377,000	1981	4,283,303
1946	2,556,000	1964	3,446,000	1982	4,352,608
1947	2,579,000	1965	3,496,000	1983	4,395,316
1948	2,596,000	1966	3,550,000	1984	4,400,477
1949	2,634,000	1967	3,581,000	1985	4,408,118
1950	2,697,000	1968	3,603,000	1986	4,406,919
1951	2,769,000	1969	3,619,000	1987	4,344,148
1952	2,842,000	1970	3,644,637	1988	4,288,863
1953	2,866,000	1971	3,710,487	1989	4,252,894
1954	2,883,000	1972	3,761,646	1990	4,217,362
1955	2,946,000	1973	3,788,375	1991	4,241,224
1956	3,032,000	1974	3,820,109	1992	4,273,734
1957	3,115,000	1975	3,886,104	1993	4,290,100
1958	3,155,000	1976	3,950,605	1994	4,314,630
1959	3,208,000	1977	4,014,459	1995	4,338,072
1960	3,260,000	1978	4,068,579	1996	4,350,759
1961	3,287,000	1979	4,137,665		
1962	3,345,000	1980	4,205,900		

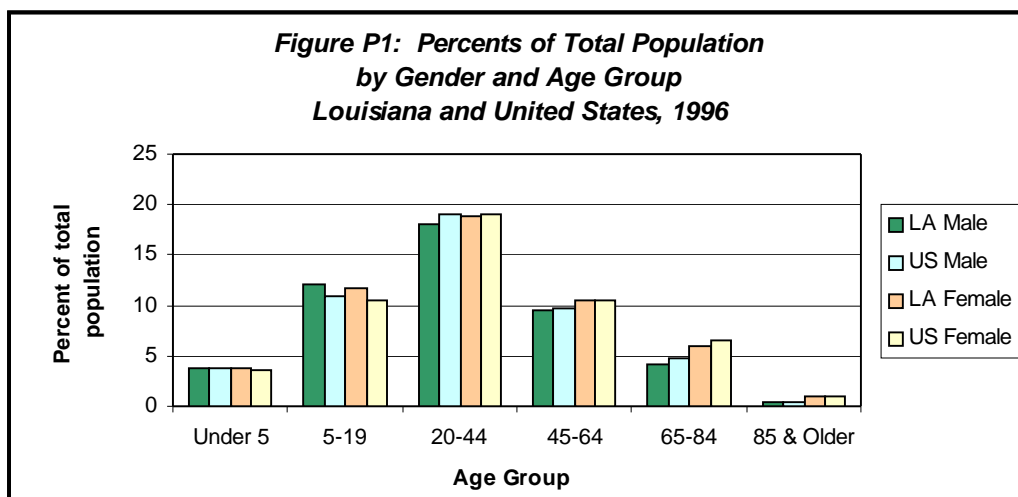
Source: United States Census Bureau

- Estimates divided by gender, race, and age describe the composition of Louisiana's population. These estimates are used to calculate rates that allow for comparisons of vital events among population subgroups (Table P2).

Table P2. Population Counts by Gender, Race, and Age Group Louisiana, 1996								
Gender	Race	Age Group						Total
		Under 5	5-19	20-44	45-64	65-84	85 & Older	
Male	White	96,133	315,700	536,514	308,294	142,477	10,345	1,409,463
	Black	67,380	206,777	236,103	97,138	40,655	4,119	652,172
	Other	3,438	10,222	14,822	5,838	1,462	141	35,923
	Total	166,951	532,699	787,439	411,270	184,594	14,605	2,097,558
Female	White	91,266	301,733	533,612	322,860	196,869	28,422	1,474,762
	Black	66,262	203,785	273,815	127,501	61,110	9,033	741,506
	Other	3,282	9,802	15,098	6,598	1,777	196	36,753
	Total	160,810	515,320	822,525	456,959	259,756	37,651	2,253,021
Both	Total	327,761	1,048,019	1,609,964	868,229	444,350	52,256	4,350,579

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1996 Population Estimates

- Subgroup estimates expressed as percent of total population show **the population compositions for the state and the nation are very similar in the distribution of gender and age** (Figure P1, Table P3).
- For both the state and the nation, the largest age group is 20-44 years, and the smallest age group is 85+ years. The United States' population is, as a whole, slightly older than Louisiana's population (Figure P1, Table P3).

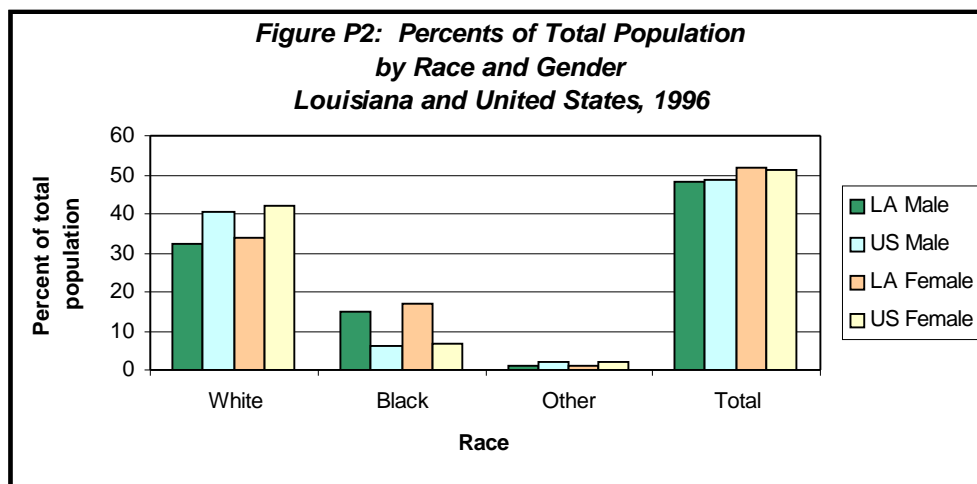


Source: United States Census Bureau, 1996 Population Estimates

Table P3. Percents of Total Population by Gender and Age Group Louisiana and United States, 1996								
Location	Gender	Age Group						All
		Under 5	5-19	20-44	45-65	65-84	85 & Older	
Louisiana	Male	3.8	12.2	18.1	9.5	4.2	0.3	48.2
	Female	3.7	11.8	18.9	10.5	6.0	0.9	51.8
	Both	7.5	24.0	37.0	20.0	10.2	1.2	100.0
United States	Male	3.7	11.0	19.1	9.8	4.8	0.4	48.9
	Female	3.6	10.5	19.1	10.5	6.5	1.0	51.1
	Both	7.3	21.5	38.2	20.3	11.3	1.4	100.0

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1996 Population Estimates

- In Louisiana, African-Americans comprise 32% of the population. In the United States, African-Americans comprise less than 13% of the population (Figure P2, Table P4).

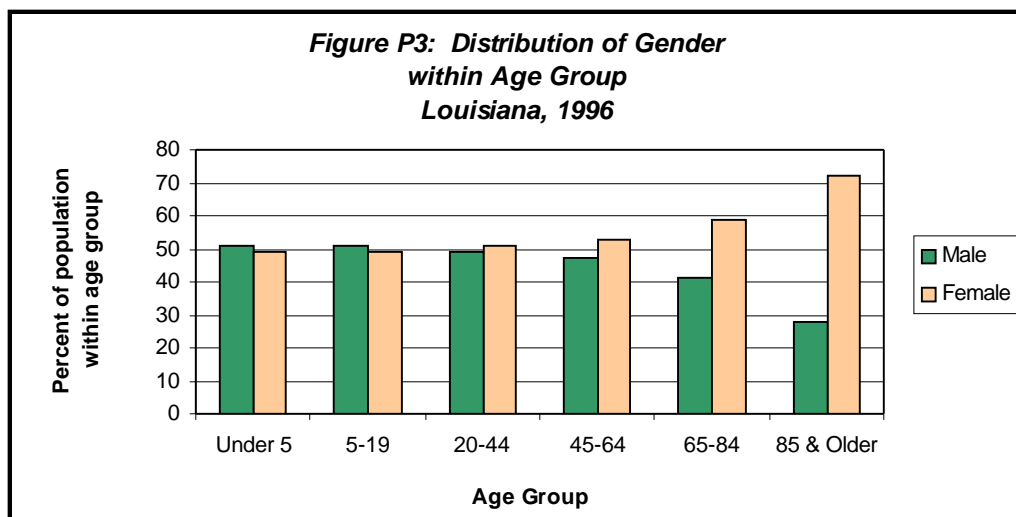


Source: United States Census Bureau, 1996 Population Estimates

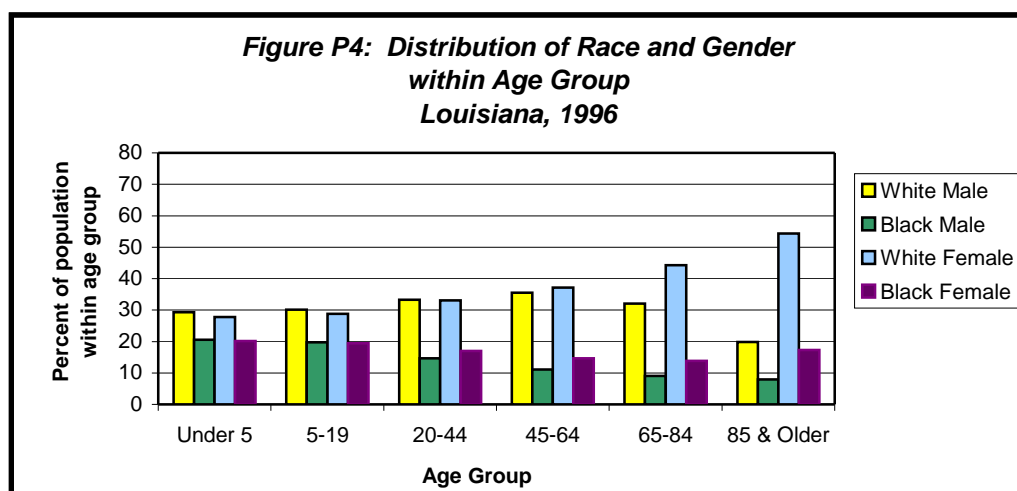
Table P4. Percents of Total Population by Race and Gender Louisiana and United States, 1996					
Location	Gender	Race			
		White	Black	Other	Total
Louisiana	Male	32.4	15.0	0.8	48.2
	Female	33.9	17.0	0.8	51.8
	Both	66.3	32.0	1.7	100.0
United States	Male	40.7	6.0	2.2	48.9
	Female	42.1	6.6	2.3	51.1
	Both	82.8	12.6	4.5	100.0

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1996 Population Estimates

- **As Louisiana's population ages, the proportion of women to men increases.** In age groups less than 44 years of age, the percentages of men and women are nearly equal. In age groups older than 45 years, women increasingly outnumber men. In the 85+ age group, there are almost three times as many women as men (Table P3, Figure P3).



- Within individual age groups, specific race and gender distributions become more disparate as age increases.** In age groups less than 19 years old, race and gender distributions are similar, but among older age groups, whites increasingly outnumber African-Americans, and females outnumber males. In the 85+ age group, for example, white females outnumber African-American males by more than seven to one (Figure P4, Table P5).



Source: United States Census Bureau, 1996 Population Estimates

Table P5. Percents of Race and Gender within Age Group Louisiana, 1996							
Gender	Race	Age Group					
		Under 5	5-19	20-44	45-64	65-84	85 & Older
Male	White	29.3	30.1	33.3	35.5	32.1	19.8
	Black	20.6	19.7	14.7	11.1	9.1	7.9
	Other	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.3	0.3
	Total	50.9	50.8	48.9	47.4	41.5	27.9
Female	White	27.8	28.8	33.1	37.2	44.3	54.4
	Black	20.2	19.4	17.0	14.7	13.8	17.3
	Other	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.4	0.4
	Total	49.1	49.2	51.1	52.6	58.5	72.1

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1996 Population Estimates

Population estimates for each of Louisiana's 64 parishes show the distribution of the total population in the state. Parish-level population estimates are given in Table P6.

Table P6. Population Counts by Parish Louisiana, 1996					
Parish	1996 Estimate	Parish	1996 Estimate	Parish	1996 Estimate
Acadia	57,266	Iberia	71,292	St. Charles	46,275
Allen	23,921	Iberville	30,965	St. Helena	9,672
Ascension	68,106	Jackson	15,543	St. James	21,652
Assumption	22,414	Jefferson	455,741	St. John	41,916
Avoyelles	40,801	Jefferson Davis	31,416	St. Landry	82,237
Beauregard	31,342	Lafayette	180,222	St. Martin	46,262
Bienville	15,685	Lafourche	87,852	St. Mary	57,735
Bossier	92,119	Lasalle	13,796	St. Tammany	174,856
Caddo	246,363	Lincoln	42,935	Tangipahoa	94,364
Calcasieu	177,910	Livingston	82,152	Tensas	6,805
Caldwell	10,158	Madison	13,456	Terrebonne	101,760
Cameron	9,057	Morehouse	31,899	Union	21,672
Catahoula	10,783	Natchitoches	37,455	Vermilion	51,108
Claiborne	17,164	Orleans	480,260	Vernon	52,989
Concordia	20,770	Ouachita	146,768	Washington	43,349
Desoto	25,379	Plaquemines	25,719	Webster	42,199
East Baton Rouge	399,992	Pointe Coupee	23,128	West Baton Rouge	20,412
East Carroll	9,260	Rapides	127,788	West Carroll	12,170
East Feliciana	20,154	Red River	9,766	West Feliciana	13,102
Evangeline	34,422	Richland	20,454	Winn	17,014
Franklin	22,014	Sabine	23,562		
Grant	18,334	St. Bernard	67,447		

Source: Louisiana Tech University, 1996 Population Estimates